

Councilwoman Mary Collette
Request for Health Department (Priority #1, pg 200) funding

Esteemed Council Colleagues,

I seek your support for council funding of the number one priority of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for \$35,000 to spay & neuter animals rescued from our shelter.

I propose that we use \$35,000 from our rainy-day fund for the simple reason that it's raining cats and dogs.

The process of forming of a new 501(c)3 called SAAF (Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation) is well underway. This unified voice of half-a-dozen rescue groups has had a profound impact on the community discussion of animal welfare issues. There is a new dialogue and spirit of cooperation between this group and our own city/county health department, a dialogue that will strengthen the support for all efforts.

Future funding of this initial spay-neuter effort is vital and must be formalized and funded through new legislation, where those benefiting from the services are the ones paying for them. Increased spaying and neutering is the "turning off of the spigot" our mayor references so often. Currently, our Health Department is working closely with SAAF to research the most creative ideas, proven successful by other communities, that can provide ongoing funding sources for these efforts.

In addition, please consider:

Each intact dog costs U.S. taxpayers about \$35 in animal control expenses, compared to about \$12 for a sterilized dog.

Targeted low-income spay/neuter programs have shown savings of more than three dollars in impoundment costs for every dollar spent.

Unsterilized dogs account for 70-80% of all bites.

One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years.

One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years.